

Message Text

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42

ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY S:LSEAGLEBURGER:ML
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 042877 TOSEC 040200

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), OGEN

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM GEORGE KENNAN

1. GEORGE KENNAN HAS SENT ME A LETTER FOR YOU WITH A COVERING NOTE TO ME SAYING THAT HE IS ASKING NOTHING OF YOU, AND INTENDS THIS ONLY TO CHEER YOU UP. IT IS SUCH A NICE LETTER THAT I THOUGHT I WOULD SEND IT TO YOU NOW RATHER THAN WAIT TO SHOW IT TO YOU ON YOUR RETURN.

2. TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

DEAR HENRY (IF I, AS AN OLDER MAN, MAY CALL YOU THAT);

I HAVE KNOWN FOR SOME TIME -- EVEN WHEN WE LAST MET -- THAT YOU WERE BECOMING A VICTIM TO THE INJUSTICE OF THOSE WHO MAKE WHAT IS CALLED PUBLIC OPINION IN THIS COUNTRY; AND I SEE NOW, FROM THE NEWS COLUMNS AND THE EVENING TV NEWSCASTS, THAT ALL THIS HAS REACHED SOME SORT OF A CLIMAX.

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I WRITE TO URGE YOU NOT TO TAKE ALL THIS TOO HARD. WHAT YOU

ARE EXPERIENCING IS PAR FOR THE COURSE, AS A GREAT MANY DISTINGUISHED AND DESERVING PEOPLE HAVE LEARNED, OVER THE YEARS.

I AM AWARE OF HAVING MADE MY MISTAKES; BUT I FLATTER MYSELF THAT THERE ARE NOT MANY PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHO ARE BETTER QUALIFIED THAN AM I TO JUDGE WHAT IS GREAT STATESMANSHIP AND WHAT IS NOT. YOU STAND HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE ANYONE NOW IN OUR PUBLIC LIFE IN THE COMBINED QUALITIES OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY, KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD, BREADTH OF CONCEPT, AND SCOPE OF ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IT DOESN'T MATTER A GREAT DEAL FROM THE STANDPOINT OF HISTORY WHETHER YOU LEAVE NOW OR AT THE END OF THE YEAR -- YOU WILL GO DOWN AS ONE OF THE REALLY GREAT FIGURES OF THIS CENTURY IN THE FIELD OF DIPLOMACY -- NO ONE CAN TAKE THAT DISTINCTION AWAY FROM YOU. THE JUDGMENT OF POSTERITY WILL BE MORE DISCERNING AND MORE JUST THAN THAT OF CONTEMPORARIES.

I REALIZE, TOO, THAT THIS PRESENT FRENZY MUST BE ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT FOR YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR WIFE'S RECENT ILLNESS. FOR THIS, TOO, YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY.

I SAY ALL THIS TO ASSURE YOU THAT EVEN IF WE HAVE HAD OCCASIONAL DIFFERENCES OF VIEW, AS IS ONLY NATURAL AND RIGHT, YOU HAVE MY ADMIRATION AND RESPECT, ALONG WITH MY HOPES THAT YOU WILL NOT LET YOURSELF BE UNDULY DISTURBED BY THE SAVAGE INJUSTICE OF JOURNALISTIC AND PARLIAMENTARY OPINION.

WITH WARM REGARDS, SINCERELY, GEORGE KENNAN END TEXT

3. NOTICE THE SIGNATURE LINE ON THIS TELEGRAM. ISN'T IT GREAT. EAGLEBURGER

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